

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 4, 2014

Bruce L. McDermott
UIL Holdings Corporation
157 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06506

RE: **PETITION NO. 1104** – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 2.2 MW AC solar photovoltaic facility and a 2.8 MW AC Fuel Cell facility on approximately 22 acres of the former Seaside Landfill located at 350 Waldemere Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney McDermott:

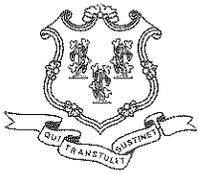
The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than August 19, 2014. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office and a pdf copy. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Yours very truly,

Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director

c: City Councilman Enrique Torres
State Representative Auden Grogins
Council Members
Parties and Intervenors
Thomas Judge, UI



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**Petition 1104: The United Illuminating Company
Bridgeport Solar and Fuel Cell Facilities
Pre-Hearing Interrogatories, Set One**

1. How did UI become aware of the site property?
2. Did UI investigate any other properties as potential locations for this project? If so, identify these properties.
3. What were the factors that led UI to choose the site property over any other properties it may have considered?
4. Describe the land use within a 0.5 mile radius of the fuel cell facility and the solar field facility.
5. Is the landfill and/or fuel cell portions of the project within the boundaries of Seaside Park? If so, are these areas presently accessible to the public? If not, how are these areas regulated?
6. Provide the acreage of the following:
 - a. Landfill;
 - b. Proposed solar field project area;
 - c. Solar panels;
 - d. Fuel cell location; and
 - e. Seaside Park
7. Provide site plans on 11x17 paper depicting the following:
 - a. Property boundaries for the parcels that comprise the project site, with any existing structures;
 - b. Environmental features that will be altered by the installation (trees to be cleared, fields to be utilized, habitat for notable plant/animal species, existing grades that will be altered);
 - c. A solar field site layout including panel array, access roads, excavation areas, detention basins, embankments, interconnection points, distance to nearby notable public park features, and the 500-year flood line;
 - d. Details of the solar panel racking/foundation system, ballast pads, inverters, fencing, drainage features, access road, grass planting, excavation depths;
 - e. A fuel cell facility site layout including details of the various components, fencing, access, interconnection, fencing, the 500-year flood line, and distance to any nearby notable public park features; and
 - f. Details of the fuel cell facility components, fencing and landscaping.
8. What is the design wind speed of the solar panel ballast mount? How are the panels adhered to the ballast mount? What prevents the solar panels from separating from either the racking or the foundation during high winds?
9. What is the maximum slope of the solar field in this proposal? What is the maximum ground slope design for the selected ballast mount?

10. Describe any excavation necessary for solar field construction. Would there be any alteration of existing landfill elevations/grade?
11. How many solar modules are proposed? Will all of the modules be of the same make/model? What is the height above grade of the panels at the bottom and top?
12. What is the efficiency of the proposed photovoltaic modules? Does efficiency decrease over time? Does UI anticipate switching to more efficient modules at some point during the project's life?
13. At what pitch does the selected solar modules provide optimal energy production? What is the pitch of the modules in this proposal?
14. What is the status of the two-acre hazardous waste area, as mentioned on page 7 of the petition? How would construction and operation of this project affect this area of the landfill? What is UI's responsibility in the closure and/or maintenance of this area, if any?
15. What is the composition of the landfill closure cover material? Is the 24-inch depth described on page 7 of the petition uniform throughout the landfill? How was this information determined?
16. Was a landfill cover settling study conducted? If not, is one necessary for this type of project?
17. Describe how construction vehicles would access the landfill. Would the use of heavy vehicles disturb the landfill cap? Are there any permits required for vehicle access on top of the landfill?
18. Would UI plant new grass in the solar field area? If so, what types? Describe the maintenance of the grass/vegetative surface in the fenced solar field area.
19. Provide the outstanding studies/documentation as described in Section 6.7 of the petition.
20. Has there been any research as to water bird collisions with ground mounted solar panels adjacent to waterways? If so, what were the study conclusions? Has the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued any type of directive or recommendations regarding water bird impacts?
21. What is the color of the solar panels? Are other colors available? Is the glass casing reflective? Are there solar panels available with non-reflective glass?
22. In regards the stormwater management report, why is the area under each panel characterized as unchanged when rainfall would be blocked from hitting the ground area underneath?
23. What effect would runoff from the drip edge of each row of solar panels have on the landfill cap? Would channelization along the drip edge be expected? If not, why not?
24. What side/area of the landfill is the solar field draining to?
25. Provide the figures and appendices related to the Environmental Report in Exhibit VI (bulk file is appropriate)
26. In regards to Section 6.4 of the Petition, please submit the visual analysis report that includes all 11 photolocations in the viewshed index. For each photolocation, include a description as to whether the solar field is visible and, if so, indicate the percentage of the solar field that would be visible. Describe how the simulations were prepared.

27. Describe the distance to and visibility of the project from the following:
 - a. Seabright Avenue beach,
 - b. Fayerweather Yacht Club on Brewster Street,
 - c. Eames Boulevard;
 - d. Arthur Street;
 - e. Ferris Street;
 - f. Yacht Street;
 - g. Soccer field area of Seaside Park;
 - h. Barnum Drive; and
 - i. Barnum Boulevard
28. Were photosimulations prepared of the fuel cell units from area receptors? If so, please provide. If not, why not.
29. Describe any necessary training required for local fire departments in the event of a fire at either the fuel cell facility or the solar field? If so, in what type of emergencies are specialized procedures required?
30. What noise levels are expected from operation of the fuel cell units?
31. Describe any excavation necessary for fuel cell construction.
32. How much fill is required at the fuel cell location to attain an elevation above the 500-year flood line?
33. Was there any consideration of utilization of potential landfill methane for production of electricity?
34. Were there any photosimulations prepared for the fuel cell units from area receptors? If so, please provide. If not, why not?